

REMARKS

As stated in the background of the invention many people, including managers of people, send each day a number of messages using electronic communications system which are "passing a ball" requests or sending a work load assignments by a sender to people at receivers for carrying out a work load assignment action to be completed by the users. A "passing the ball" request is a request like in the sport of football where the quarterback passes a football to a receiver so that the receiver will perform an assigned task of catching the football and running for a touch down. A "passing a ball" request is where a manager such a supervisory examiner passing a work load assignment like a patent examination to a patent examiner in the manager's group to perform a work load task of examining the patent application. It involves doing a work load assignment and is beyond just receiving a message and reading it and acknowledging it has been read. This is the context of the kind of task in this application. This application teaches a method that includes generating a request at a sender location of a task to carry out a work load assignment action beyond reading the message and/or acknowledging receipt of the message to be completed by users at one or more receivers with a deadline set for completion of the work load assignment and that deadline is recorded at the sender location indicating deadline and automatically setting up a follow-up reminder at the sender location to determine if a request for completion of the work load assignment has been completed by the deadline, sending that request with a deadline message to the one or more receivers; receiving that request and deadline at the one or more receivers; and determining at the receivers when the users at the receivers indicate that the requested

task is done; and sending a done notice to sender when requested task is completed and said done notice is recorded at the sender location.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,854,007 to Hammond; hereinafter Hammond.

Hammond describes a system for enhancing the reliability of communication with electronic messages. Nowhere does Hammond discuss “generating a request of a task at a sender location to carry out a work load assignment action beyond reading and any acknowledgement of receipt of the request to be completed by users at one or more receivers with a deadline for completion of the work load assignment and recording that request at the sender location indicating deadline and automatically setting up a follow-up reminder at the sender location to determine if a request for completion of the work load assignment has been completed by the deadline.” Clearly the assigned piece of work is something more than opening and reading an e-mail message about the assigned work to be done as referenced in col.4, lines 55-67. There is no “passing a ball” assignment to be done in reading a message or acknowledging receipt of the message. There is work to be completed beyond reading the message. The claim further calls for “determining at the one or more receivers when the users at the receivers indicate that the requested task is done.” This again indicates more than receiving and reading a message for the user must indicate when the assigned work is done. Claim 1 is therefore deemed allowable over the Hammond reference.

Claims 2-5 dependent on Claim 1 are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 2 further calls for "said sender to determines if a done notice is received and request is completed before said deadline and generates a message to said one or more receivers if it has not been completed and the done notice has not been received by the deadline date.

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 2 and further calls for "said sender automatically sends a message to said one or more receivers if a deadline date has not been met."

Claim 4 is dependent on claim 3 and further calls for "said sender also automatically sends a second deadline date with a second message if a deadline has not been met and sets a second follow-up reminder."

Claim 5 is dependent on claim 4 and further calls for "wherein said sender determines if a done request is completed and a done notice has been received before said second deadline and generates a message to said one or more receivers if it has not been completed by the second deadline date."

In view of the above applicants Claims 1-5, as amended, are deemed allowable and an early notice of allowance of these claims is deemed in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully requested;

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